Memoranda submitted by Andhra Pradesh Government for Drought and Flood relief

3877. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has submitted different memoranda seeking central assistance for the state towards the drought and flood relief works;

(b) if so, when were the memoranda submitted and what amount was sought; and

(c) what action has been taken by the Union Government on the memoranda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) The Government of India received memoranda from the authorities of the State Government on four occasions viz 9th August, 1987, 24th August, 1987, 3rd September 1987 and 18th September 1987 for Central assistance in the wake of drought caused by failure of south west monsoon this year. The aggregate amount sought by the State Government for drought relief is Rs 546.50 crores against which a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 57.84 crores has been approved.

A memorandum for damages caused by cyclone was received from the State Government on 26-11-1987 seeking a central assistance of Rs. 136.48 crores Ceilings of expenditure for the purposes of central assistance will be approved as per established procedure.

Consolidation of Agricultural Holdings

3878. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to consolidate the holdings of agricultural land and mechanisation of agriculture; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Since land is a State subject, consolidation of holdings is undertaken by them. 15 States in the country have so far enacted laws on consolidation of land holdings.

Consolidation has been completed in Punjab and Haryana and is nearing completion in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have also started consolidation operations. The total area consolidated till the end of the Sixth Plan was 532 25 lakh hectares. During 1985-86 and 1986-87 an area of 21 90 lakh hectares has been consolidated. However, it has not made much headway in many States including the Eastern Region.

Regarding mechanisation, Government have laid stress on selective mechanisation. The following steps have been taken during the 7th Plan in respect of farm mechanisation:—

(i) Adequate capacities for manufacture of tractors, power tillers, harvester combines, etc have been created.

(ii) Steps have been taken to popularise animal-drawn improved agricultural implements and handtools for efficiently utilising the animal and human power. For this purpose a Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been launched.

(iii) 21 improved agricultural implements/handtools have been identified by a Committee for manufacture and popularisation.

(iv) Supporting services, in terms of training of farmers and technicians and testing of agricultural machinery and implements have been expanded.